

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 were presented at the time of the outstanding Office Action. By way of the instant amendment, claims 2 and 6 have been canceled and claims 10-17 have been added. Thus, claims 1, 3-5, and 7-17 are presented for examination.

The examiner has objected to various portions of the specification as pointed out on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action. By way of the instant amendment, applicant has amended the specification to correct each objection mentioned by the examiner and has adopted the examiner's suggestions.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Shigenaga (5,554,984) in view of Tiernay (6,661,352).

The examiner has indicated that claims 2 and 6 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if written in independent form.

By way of the instant amendment, claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1 and claim 6 has been incorporated into claim 5. Claims 2 and 6 have been canceled. Thus, it is submitted that independent claims 1 and 5 are in condition for allowance. Moreover, dependent claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1, and claims 7-9 depend from claim 5. These dependent claims are likewise deemed allowable in view of the indication of allowable subject matter in amended claims 1 and 5. Thus, it is submitted that claims 1, 3-5 and 7-9 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has also submitted new claims 10-17. New independent claim 10 is a method step and recites, in the body thereof, arranging a plurality of roadside antennas along a direction of travel of vehicles utilizing a roadway, the plurality of antennas spaced from one another in the direction of vehicle travel such that a given antenna among said plurality of antennas has a communication range along said direction of travel that overlaps with a communication range along the direction of travel of adjacent antennas among the plurality of antennas, time sharing an operation of the plurality of roadside antennas by synchronizing sending timing of a communication frame in each of said plurality of roadside antennas; and receiving a communication frame transmitted from one of the adjacent roadside antennas

during communication with the given one of said roadside antennas in an on-vehicle device which includes a radio set mounted on a vehicle for performing communication with said roadside antennas. Independent apparatus claim 13 is a similar claim to new claim 10, but presented in apparatus format. Newly submitted independent claims 10 and 13 are deemed to be allowable inasmuch as the prior art references do not disclose the limitations claimed therein. For example, the prior art does not disclose the arrangement of the plurality of roadside antennas along the direction of travel of the vehicles and having an overlapping range among the plurality of antennas. Moreover, the prior art references do not disclose synchronizing communication utilizing time sharing of communication frames among said plurality of antennas in an arrangement in which the antennas are positioned along the direction of travel of a vehicle and have overlapping ranges among adjacent antennas. As such, it is submitted that independent claims 10 and 13 are patentable over the prior art. As such, it is submitted that dependent claims 11 and 12, which depend from independent claim 1 and dependent claims 14-17 which depend from independent claim 13, are likewise allowable.

It is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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